

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 05037 042225Z
ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJ: DANISH PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSEES SOVIET TRIALS/OLYMPIC
GAMES

REFS: (A) COPENHAGEN 5896 (NOTAL; (B) COPENHAGN 4591 (NOTAL
(C) COPENHAGEN 4537 (NOTAL; (D) COPENHAGEN 4495 (NOTAL)
(E) COPENHAGEN 3574 (NOTAL)

1. MOST COPENHAGEN DAILIES ON AUGUST 2 REPORTED PRIME AND
FOREIGN MIN ANKER JORGENSEN'S RESPONSE TO A FOLKETING
PROGRESSIVE PARTY MEMBER'S INTERPELLATION ASKING WHETHER
DANISH GOVT WOULD SUGGEST THAT DANISH ATHLETES NOT
PARTICIPATE IN THE 1980 OLYMPIC GAMES OR IN OTHER
COMPETITIONS INVOLVING SOVIET ATHLETES. THE FOLKETING
MEMBER (BORGE HALVGAARD) ADDED THAT IF THE ANSWER WAS NO,
WOULD THE GOVERNMENT EXPLAUN THE REASONS FOR ITS TREATING
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PAGE 02 COPENH 05037 042225Z

SPORTS EVENTS INVOLVING SOUTH AFRICANS DIFFERENTLY FROM
THOSE INVOLVING SOVIET CITIZENS.

2. IN REPLY TO WHAT TWO MFA OFFICIALS TERMED A
"TICKLISH QUESTION", ANKER JORGENSEN ON AUG 1 STATED
THAT IT IS IN DENMARK'S INTEREST "TO AVOID STEPS
WHICH COULD GIVE THE SOVIET UNION A PRETEXT TO

WITHDRAW FROM THE POLICY OF DETENTE". HE CONTINUED THAT "THIS DOES NOT MEAN A PASSIVE ATTITUDE ON OUR PART TOWARDS THE VIOLATIONS OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH WE ARE WITNESSING. HOWEVER, WE MUST CONSIDER THE WHOLE ISSUE OF EAST-WEST DETENTE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES WHEN CHOOSING WAYS TO REACT. THE DANISH GOVERNMENT, TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EC, HAS EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN OVER THE TRIALS OF THE SOVIET DISSIDENTS, AND IN ITS OWN NAME ISSUED A SIMILAR STATEMENT EVEN BEFORE THE VERDICTS WERE HANDED DOWN. THIS MUST BE SEEN AS AN UNUSUALLY STRONG REJECTION OF AND PROTEST AGAINST ANOTHER COUNTRY."

3. JORGENSEN EXPLAINED FURTHER THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S UNOFFICIAL SUGGESTION THAT DANES REFRAIN FROM PARTICIPATING IN SPORTS EVENTS INVOLVING SOUTH AFRICANS IS BASED ON SEVERAL UN RESOLUTIONS PROPOSING THAT SPORTS CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA BE DISCONTINUED AND ON THE PROGRAM PROPOSED BY THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS IN MARCH AND ENDORSED BY THE FOLKETING IN MAY (REFTEL D).

4. COMMENT: JORGENSEN'S REPLY DOES NOT CONTAIN A SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE 1980 OLYMPIC GAMES, BUT HIS MEANING WAS CLEAR. THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 COPENH 05037 042225Z

MENT COMES AS FURTHER ELABORATION OF THE DANISH REACTION TO THE SOVIET DISSIDENT TRIALS (REFTELS B, C, D). IT SOUGHT TO FINESSE THE OBVIOUS DISCREPANCY IN DANISH POLICIES TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA AND THE SOVIET UNION, AND POINTS UP AGAIN THE DANES' PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR SOVIET NEIGHBOR (REFTEL A). MFA'S CHIEF OF EASTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, MARY DAU, WHO WAS PRINCIPAL DRAFTER OF THE PRIMIN'S STATEMENT, TOLD EMBOFF PRIVATELY THAT IT HAD BEEN EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT TO COMPOSE, ESPECIALLY AS SHE PERSONALLY DISAGREES WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THIS POINT. (DAU VOLUNTEERED HER ASSESSMENT THAT WITH THE WESTERN WORLD'S TACIT ASSENT, THE SOVIETS WILL STAGE THE MOSCOW GAMES AS A GREAT SHOW, HAVING ROUNDED UP ALL POTENTIAL DISSIDENTS WELL BEFOREHAND. THEY WILL FLAUNT THEIR "LIBERAL" REGIME, SHE SAID, AND THEN TWO MONTHS LATER WALK INTO THE MADRID CSCE TALKS WITHOUT A QUALM.). MANSHEL

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